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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/732,753	12/10/2003	Rahim Allagheband Zadeh	020713CON	6555

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EXAMINER

KING, ANITA M

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3632

DATE MAILED: 02/03/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/732,753	ZADEH, RAHIM ALLAGHEBAND	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Anita M. King	3632	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 December 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6, 16-21, 30-32, 37 and 50-62 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6, 16-21, 30, 31, 37 and 50-62 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 32 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 13 December 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

This is the fourth office action for application number 10/732,753, Vertical Slide Clip, filed on December 10, 2003. This application is a continuation of application number 09/912,098, now U.S. Patent 6,688,069 filed July 24, 2001.

Drawings

The drawings were received on December 13, 2005. These drawings are accepted.

Response to Amendment

The indicated allowability of claim 32 is withdrawn in view of the newly discovered reference(s) to Yeager. Rejections based on the newly cited reference(s) follow.

The finality of the last office action is withdrawn in lieu of newly discovered reference to Yeager and thus, the amendment filed December 14, 2005, after final has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Claim 32 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 4,261,593 to Yeager in view of U.S. Patent 5,885,024 to Zupan et al., hereinafter, Zupan. Yeager discloses a bracket (25) capable of connecting a pair of building components together, the bracket comprising: a first connector plate (77)

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having one or more fastener holes (82) therethrough; a second connector plate (79) integrally connected to the first connector plate; a juncture formed between the first and second connector plates; at least one substantially linear stiffener channel (89,90) disposed in the first connector plate; and one or more rows of fastener-receiving holes (81) extending through the second connector plate and being disposed within a stiffener region, each of the one or more rows of holes being substantially parallel with the adjacent one of the one or more rows of holes.

Yeager discloses the claimed invention except for the limitation of at least one stiffener disposed in the juncture. Zupan teaches a bracket (10) having a first connector plate (19) having one or more fastener holes (20) therethrough, a second connector plate (14) connected to the first connector plate, and at least one stiffener (18) in a juncture formed between the first and second connector plates. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the juncture in Yeager to have included the stiffener as taught by Zupan for the purpose of providing a means for strengthening the bracket.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-6, 16-21, 30, 31, 37, and 50-62 are allowed.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: the primary reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter of the above-mentioned claims are the limitations of a bracket having a first connector plate, a second connector plate connected at a right angle so as to form a right angled juncture,

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a plurality of stiffener channels disposed in the juncture, a plurality of substantially linear stiffener channels disposed in the first plate, a plurality of elongated slots disposed within a recessed slot stiffener region in the second plate, and a plurality of collinearly disposed dimples on the first plate, essentially included in independent claims 1 and 30 and in combination with the other elements recited in the claims, respectively; and a vertical slide clip having a first connector plate having a pair of lateral ends with an upstanding flange, a second connector plate at a right angle relative to the first connector plate and forming a juncture, a plurality of stiffener channels in the juncture, at least one linear stiffener ridge formed in the first plate and extending from at least one of the channels, and a score mark in the first connector plate, essentially included in independent claims 16, 18, 37, 50, 51, 52, 55, and 60, in combination with the other elements recited in the claims, respectively. These combinations of elements are not found in the prior art of record.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

U.S. Patent 5,906,080 to diGirolamo et al.

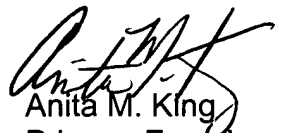
The above reference discloses a bracket for interconnecting a building stud to a structural component.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Anita M. King whose telephone number is (571) 272-6817. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert Olszewski can be reached on (571) 272-6788. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Anita M. King
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3632

January 30, 2006